



## 2023 ABC Winter Board Meeting Minutes

President, Lauren Ehlers, called the meeting to order at 10:13AM

**Roll Call** – It is noted those attendees that were late or needed to leave early, a quorum was kept intact throughout the meeting.

Michael Jenkins – East  
Teri Larson Jones – South  
Jerry Kanawyer – West  
Sam Dubs – East  
John Garrity – East  
Vonl Adams – South Central  
Ben Groen – South – Left Early  
Brett Swanbom – Athlete  
Megan Adams – Athlete  
Brian Heeney – West  
Sean Qualey – Midwest  
Lauren Ehlers – South Central  
Landon Ehlers – South Central  
Mikey Caruso – South – Arrived Late  
Scott Stouffer – Midwest – Arrived Late

*Not in attendance*

Rachel Normand – South  
David Wheeler – South Central  
Ted Klein – West

Brian Heeney was appointed parliamentarian.

Automatic second was approved for reports - Paul Stokes motioned, Sean Qualey second, motion passed

The meeting agenda was approved with no objections.

## Reports Requiring Action

### 1. [Online Voting Recap Final \(3\)](#)

We reviewed the online voting that occurred outside of a board meeting. It was suggested that we add columns to recap the total Yes's and No's.

The need was uncovered to get athletes more involved in discussion and votes. Ben originally offered to make this happen. Later Landen Ehlers requested and agreed he will lead the athlete committee to get this accomplished.

Motion carries to approve voting recap with no objections.

## Reports Requiring NO Action

1. Treasurer's Report – Jerry Kanawyer
  - a. [2021 Income & Expenses YTD \(4\)](#)
  - b. [Account Balance \(5\)](#)

Jerry reviewed the budget

We needed an updated report showing total cost of airfares. This was sent via email.

### 2. [Rules & Bylaws Committee - Mark Shank \(6\)](#)

Mark Shank submitted report

### 3. [Officials Committee – Mike Molepske \(7\)](#)

Mike Molepske submitted report

### 4. [Awards Committee - Megan Adams \(8\)](#)

Megan Adams submitted report

### 5. [Technology Committee – Sam Dubs \(9\)](#)

Sam Dubs submitted report, further discussion expected later in the meeting.

### 6. [Records Committee – Brian Heeney \(10\)](#)

Brian Heeney submitted report – requested someone take over committee as chairman. Reason being he is not supportive of the record format changes.

### 7. [Marketing and Social Media Committee – Paul Stokes \(11\)](#)

Paul Stokes submitted report – Committee needs to take action.

8. [History Committee- John Cornish \(12\)](#)

John Cornish submitted report

9. [Skier Development Committee – Sean Qualey/Paul Stokes \(13\)](#)

Sean Qualey submitted report – Promoting open spots in pro instructional clinics.

10. [Team Select \(Team Update\) - Andrew Martin \(14\)](#)

Andrew Martin submitted report

11. Athlete Reps - Landen Ehlers (15)

Landen requested to take over responsibility of getting athletes involved in the board discussions and votes. Ben agreed.

12. Regional Reports

a. [Western Region -Jerry/Brian/Ted \(16\)](#)

Jerry Kanawyer submitted report

b. [Midwest Region –Sean/Scott/Paul \(17\)](#)

Sean Qualey submitted report

c. [Southern Region – Ben/Mikey/Rachel \(18\)](#)

Ben Groen submitted report

d. [South-Central Region –Landen/Vonl/David \(19\)](#)

Landen Ehlers submitted report

e. [Eastern Region - John/Mike/Sam \(20\)](#)

Sam Dubs submitted report – major issue is struggling with finding ski sites

13. [WBC/Pan Am – Betsy Gilman \(21\)](#)

Betsy Gilman submitted a thorough report all should review.

14. USA Waterski – Dale Stevens (22)

Dale Stevens submitted report

15. [USA Waterski & Wake Sports Hall of Fame Foundation - Betsy Gilman \(23\)](#)

Betsy Gilman submitted report

## Old Business

### 1. [Towboat List Approval \(24\)](#)

Scott Stouffer presented proposed changes to the list. Discussion on how boats make the list. If records are broken and the towboat isn't on WBC list, will the record stand? There is precedent, KSO slalom record. Board looking for clarity and potential more boats added.

It was suggested that we simply put together a standard that meets homologation standards with a list of recommended or past boats used.

Scott is going to continue work on this.

## New Business

### 1. [Nationals Report / Requests \(25\)](#)

Brian Heeney discussed that site familiarization must be purchased ahead of time with limited availability due to time.

The event needs a few chief officials that are yet to be assigned: Driver, Safety, and Videographer

It was requested that regions put forth their appointed officials by mid-March.

We are looking for fund raising ideas for the US teams to be held at Nationals.

Please get registered early as the event is limited to 80 skiers. Attendees are also advised to purchase flights early if planning to fly. There are not many flights coming in and out of Helena and prices could go up quickly if you wait too long.

### 2. [WBC/PanAm Appointment Process \(26\)](#)

There was discussion on future appointment procedures for WBC and PanAm positions. It was requested that this be specifically addressed in the bylaws. It was suggested the board votes to approve the list of representatives and committee chairs each year as the board changes.

Brian Heeney motioned to approve current list of appointees. Sean Qualey second, motion approved.

3. [New Records Implementation \(27\)](#)

Online vote did not pass as originally announced due to being 1 vote short. It was agreed to re-vote at this meeting.

Brian Heeney made a motion to “Eliminate the following rule from ABC rulebook: USA 304) B. So long as a skier holds an Open Rating in an Event that skier is no longer eligible to set a non-Open Record in that Event” and task the Rules & Records Committee to bring options to the board for implementation by Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Paul Stokes second

Teri – Y

Brian – N

Jerry – Y

Sean – Y

Scott – Y

Paul – Y

Landen – Y

Vonl – Y

Ben – Y

Mikey – Y

John G – Y

Mike J – Y

Sam Dubs – Y

Megan – Y

Brett – Y

Lauren – Y

Motion passed

4. [Nationals Waivers for Worlds Skiers \(28\)](#)

We reviewed the current rules established and also the unique circumstances of several competitors needing an exception to the rule for this upcoming world championships.

Brian Heeney motions to approve all names on list, contingent on them signing up to participate in the 2023 US Barefoot Nationals.  
Vonl seconded the motion.

Lots of discussion prior to the vote.

Lauren – Abstain  
Teri – Abstain  
Paul – Abstain  
Jerry – Yes  
John – No  
Mike J – No  
Sean Qualey – Yes  
Scott S – No  
Mikey – Yes  
Ben – No  
Vonl – No  
Brian Heeney – yes  
Bret Swanbom – No  
Megan Adams – No  
Landen - No

Motion Failed

Landen Ehlers motioned to allow all independent skiers to ski worlds and task the rules and bylaws committee to amend the rules to avoid these discussions moving forward  
Seconded Michael Jenkins

Lauren – Y  
Teri – Y  
Paul – Y  
Jerry – Y  
John – Y  
Mike – Y  
Sam – Y  
Sean – Abstain  
Mikey – Y  
Ben – Y  
Vonl – Y

Landen – Y  
Brian H – Abstain  
Scott St – Y  
Megan – Y  
Brett – Y

Motion Passes

5. [EMS License Payment \(29\)](#)

3 Options were presented on how to handle the system moving forward, both management and payment.

Michael Jenkins motioned “Accept Option 2” which is “EMS Payment will be managed by our ABC EMS Rep. Licenses will be purchased for skiers by our rep as needed.”

Second by Brian Heeney

Motion was rescinded by Michael.

Sean Qualey motioned “Accept Option 1” which is “To do another bulk agreement”  
Second by “unsure”

Motion Passes

6. [Communication Preference for this Board \(30\)](#) - Discussions & Board Meetings

The bylaw’s state there are several acceptable places for board discussions.

There was a discussion about using Google forms for voting but continuing to have discussion on both Facebook and email with President, Lauren, doing her best to keep information on both platforms.

It was agreed to move forward as such, no vote needed.

7. [Tournament Dates \(31\)](#)

A Google document has been created for all tournament dates.

8. [Region Dues Clarification \(32\)](#)

Lauren shared how this is addressed in the Bylaws.

Brian Heeney gave a history of the use of the funds. They were essentially for expenses incurred by the President in the form of printing costs, shipping costs, and airfare to go to other region events.

Suggested Lauren proposes a budget for travel to formal USA Waterski events to be approved by the board on an individual event basis.

This was agreed upon, no vote needed.

**It was also agreed that regional dues will no longer be collected.**

9. [Livestream Payment Request \(33\)](#)

John Garrity presented his “livestream in a box”. The box is about 2 foot square approximately 40lbs. Cost of equipment is about \$8,000.

Brian Heeney motioned “we fund a budget up to \$8,000 for live stream equipment to be shared by sanctioned USA Waterski events”

Second by Michael Jenkins

Motion Passed!

Brian Heeney motioned “to create the fundraising committee and to have Teri Jones be appointed chairman.

Michael Jenkins second

Motion passed

Brian Heeney motioned to adjourn

Paul Stokes second

Lauren Adjourned the meeting.

Adjourn: Next meeting: August 24, 2023 at Nationals in Helena, MT